

The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)

Posted by Hakolhevel - 19 Feb 2017 04:23

In Short I had issues for about 5 years. When I started dating I stopped, and I was clean for a few years. Well it's come to the point where I gave to start my own thread. In the last half a year everything has been coming back, and I don't think I need to enumerate here on this forum, everybody knows what its like, you struggle you fall you fell terrible yada yada yada. Just goes to show once an addict always an addict.

Anyway that's not the point. The point is that coming here and reading the forums has opened up great insight about myself, particularly reading some of Dov's long posts. So I will give you some background, and hopefully you will all help

I feel like I'm in a place right now where if I wanted to stop myself I can (and I do much of the time). The problem is I know what will stop me and I choose not to use those tools? I guess in general that's the problem, it boils down to how much do we really not want to do it. Do we not want to do it just because it makes you feel terrible afterwards/don't like the consequences. If that is the case I think we are doomed to fail, but unfortunately that is where I feel I am right now:cry: As dov put it best in the following quote

Warning: Spoiler!

Anyway I know it was a long rant (for me), I guess the question how do you open yourself up and truly change the way you think? Especially when it's not a lack of knowledge but a change of perspective?

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by MayanHamisgaber - 20 Feb 2017 18:50

personally I feel that I do get all that from quite a few people here

Cordnoy, Markz, Gevura, Dov, GS, just to mention a few (sorry cannot mention all but thank you)

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 20 Feb 2017 19:02

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by eslaasos - 20 Feb 2017 19:11

[MayanHamisgaber wrote on 20 Feb 2017 17:15:](#)

Dov I have seen you say many times that these fake names are not real fiends....

Forgetting addicts or not I have been helped through these people alot is this a blanket rule or just your' statistical judgment?

When you say you have been helped, do you mean that they helped you get through a rough moment, or they helped you make real, long-term changes?

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by tiger - 20 Feb 2017 19:17

Ilf you have a personal connection and they KNOW who you are when they see you in shul

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by tiger - 20 Feb 2017 19:32

IF you have that then your good but I imagine most of us don't have that

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by MayanHamisgaber - 20 Feb 2017 19:53

Gevura:

No way I purposely included you as this is one of those times that I am "forced" to be honest and think honestly

Eslaasos and Tiger:

I do not know anyone on here (though sometimes I wish I did) and I have gotten through a rough patches and gained a better perspective on things that will change my life forever.

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by Gevura Shebyesod - 20 Feb 2017 20:20

I hope you realize that I was kidding. You said you got all those things from us and that was on the list...

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by MayanHamisgaber - 20 Feb 2017 21:13

Totally got the point no worries

everyone please keep telling me your' opinion it helps me more than I realize

signing off for the night see ya'll

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P.S. If it wasn't me then who was it?

Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by Dov - 20 Feb 2017 21:44

Good q!

It's definitely both. It is what I believe *must* be based on my own experience and logic, as well as a statistical judgement I make based on my experience speaking with easily over 100 GYE

guys who started in-person sharing and discovered it to be a totally different experience than the stuff they were getting on the forum.

Really what honesty is there to people who you do not know and who do not know you? Isn't it a different animal getting real with people and then being honest w them? I think that's obvious. Yes, in the imagination we can say it is 'not necessarily so, whatever'...but in reality and practice, it just *is*. A hint that this is true is the simple fact that most are here and telling things *only because they cannot be known to anyone with whom they are sharing!*

I think Rabban Yochanan ben Zakai teaches us this simple reality. He blessed his talmidim (who were *tanno'im!*) to take G-d as seriously as they take a total stranger at the bus stop. They thought he was talking about yir'as Shomayim and asked him how he could possibly equate and even compare yir'as Shomayim with fear of people. He explained he was not talking about madreigos in yir'ah, but about simple taking G-d seriously....the way you and I take anybody even a total stranger who sees us. Just that. That is worth a blessing from the greatest tanna of the generation before he died (when his brachos were strongest).

The challenge he was trying to bless them to overcome is the simple problem we will always have with G-d: He is totally invisible! Maybe I am talking to a wall, right? Is He real at all?? No such problem with a person - a gentile at a bus stop is far more real than any invisible G-d is, even to a tanna in front of Rabban Yochanan ben Zakai.

So we are in good company!

Similarly, the main advantage of GYE - and why it has helped you so much - is that since you can come on here wearing the burka of a fake name and remain unknown, you can therefore *let it all out* without fear. Do you recall the first time you posted here and how scary it felt? No butterflies at all, even doubts afterward if you should maybe erase it after all? Well, if so, then that's probably why it worked for you - because it was a real behavioral change.

Even wearing a burka (by hiding behind the computer and fake name), it is still effective because it's *weird* enough - enough of a 'coming out'. And as long as this opening up is still fresh and meaningful to you, it will help you. But it becomes stale eventually, and I think that is why so many GYE guys make it to so-many days and then plotz. They just lost those butterflies, and their honesty lost it's fear factor, became a silly game again. So I think that unless most folks 'up the ante' by making real friends here and opening up with identity and all, to other

safe guys (there are some), things will not last that long in the world of GYE for that person.

And the great advantage of GYE is itself it's greatest limitation: the relationships are just to other burka-wearers.

Do you think any of this doesn't make sense? Please let me know. Discussion is awesome!

And remember please, I am a guy who has been hanging around GYE and loves it. I just know what it's limitations are and feel it is essential to keep people aware of them. Otherwise they are likely to find out after a while that it doesn't work and then leave, thinking there is probably no further step they can take. I am trying to keep the door open.

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by Hakolhevel - 21 Feb 2017 03:02

Thank you all for the replies, even if I don't know your real name:)

Dov are you saying that nobody can be helped without getting to know real people? Not that I'm against it, I'm just not up to there yet, it was a big enough deal for me to post on the forum. Not b/c I felt butterflies I didn't feel any - the burkas here are real good - but rather b/c it was a new step, doing something I had not done b/f and told myself I wouldn't need to do. As others mentioned, change requires change and I finally recognized that, so I did something I did not do in the past 8 years. Maybe t work maybe it won't I just don't know that such a broad statement is true.

I would just like to add another great thing the forums bring. Just by other people writing their story and their struggles, it gave me a lot of insight into myself, and yes it did push me to

But if I
continue to struggle yes I am up to taking the next step (So says the man behind the Burkah i.e no one can really hold me accountable to that statement:)

@ eslaasosGreat question, something that bothered me for years. Was it rhetorical, or are you interested in getting responses?

I am interested, Plz weigh in. Does that question bother you despite the fact that it seems you talk to real friends?

BTW anyone know what happened to MBJ I loved his posts...

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by Singularity - 21 Feb 2017 07:55

[Hakolhevel wrote on 21 Feb 2017 03:02:](#)

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True

Even just the exercise of writing things out is very enlightening.

And as Dov says (I hope I'm not misquoting you! Keep posting more, or else I'll think you don't exist!!!):

GYE is a good springboard for bigger things. Personally, I've joined a gmail chat group, speaking to someone on telegram, emailing (Dov among) a few other guys and most of all, joined the live SAA group that has properly transformed me, and I wouldn't have thought of it if not for the simple posts on GYE. Check my thread for the transition!

So keep coming back. It works blah blah blah et cetera.

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by MayanHamisgaber - 21 Feb 2017 19:54

Dov:

I can't agree more to what you said let me know if I understood correctly

While a non addict might get what he needs from this "fake" honesty/opening up and that's fine however it does not make it real and that is why for others and especially addicts it does not work and can possibly make it worse.

I should count my blessings that it seems that this all I need....Ble"h

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)

Posted by Dov - 21 Feb 2017 22:07

[Hakolhevel wrote on 21 Feb 2017 03:02:](#)

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Great Q, but hey, I never said GYE relationships "don't work" glatt like that. Look again, and sorry I wasn't clear.

wrote that posting here definitely often works! Just until the weirdness of it wears off and the person loses that 'thing' that was making him hesitant to post in the first place. Soon after that happens, the limited relationships established here will start to become insufficient. Opening up by posting, will no longer be a change. His posting will start to revert into the same isolation he had before, and eventually it will become predictable, nearly meaningless chatter. That may take a year, but it usually takes a few months, tops, I think.

So even for addicts, I hold tremendously from GYE. Just not as the solution. It's tremendously instructive, yes. It shows the path - and for this reason I have over a hundred contacts in my phone of guys I originally saved under the G-file in my cell, who after a few months or years I had to move over to the S-file in the address book because (1) they were addicts and (2) they switched from GYE to real 12-step meetings in various S-fellowships or started getting real, good therapy. The overwhelming majority of them are doing very well, b"H.

Frum yidden have far better statistics of devotion to and success in recovery than SA and AA as a whole, b"H, I have found. I believe this is mainly not a neshoma thing, but rather because culturally we have so much more family and community stability, so we usually have so much more to lose than the Joe-in-the-street-American does.

Did I respond to your point?

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by Hakolhevel - 24 Feb 2017 03:17

@Dov yes you did respond to the question. I guess the follow up would be 1) How does one define an addict vs a regular struggle.

2) I would agree that real friends are better, and most addicts need that, but I'm sure there are some that don't?

3) what's the g file and s file

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Re: The Road To Being Honest With Myself (and others:)
Posted by Hashem Help Me - 24 Feb 2017 03:45

Forums are great for learning the vital tool of opening up and sharing honestly our issues. They also show us that we are part of a bigger picture of many many frum intelligent people secretly struggling with these challenges. And as mentioned - eizehu chochom halomed meekal adam - we pick up good solid advice and inspiration from others.

Personally, despite not classifying myself as an addict I have gone another step which for me has been very beneficial. And that is speaking to people that I have met through GYE (Dov is one of them) and even using my real name when doing so. Obviously I have been very careful in choosing people who to the best of my judgement would safeguard my privacy. There is one fellow that I speak to almost every day - and we end up speaking about anything and everything - a real friendship iyh in the making. My reasoning - Why should it be different than opening up honestly face to face with a therapist? The people I speak to have loads of experience in the battleground. I cannot describe the relief the first time I unloaded for real to another yid that wanted to hear me out and help. Of course to each his own and what worked for me may not necessarily work for someone else. Hatzlocha.

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